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1963/08/24

Vietnam

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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August 24, 1963

(Taken from Pres. weekend reading bkt 8/24/63 - Tab S

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE PRESIDENT

I attach the latest cables on the situation in Saigon. It is now quite certain that Brother Nhu is the mastermind behind the whole operation against the Buddhists and is calling the shots. This is now agreed by virtually everyone here.

Agreement is also developing that the United States cannot tolerate a result of the present difficulties in Saigon which leaves Brother Nhu in a dominating position. There is disagreement on whether Diem has any political viability left, and on whether he could ever be brought to acquiesce in the removal of his brother.

Averell and Roger now agree that we must move before the situation in Saigon freezes. I am pressing them to get John McCone's endorsement of one of several courses of action which can be presented to you at the earliest opportunity. We are still trying to keep all of this as closely held as possible.

MVForrestal

DECLASSIFIED
US ARCHIVIST (NLK-88-88)
By [illegible] NARS, Date 6/15/88

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